SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following paragraph shown in marked up format:

[0041] FIGS. 1 is a perspective view of an electrosurgical system incorporating a power supply and an electrosurgical probe for tissue ablation, resection, incision, contraction and for vessel hemostasis according to the present invention;

FIGS. 2 is a side view of an electrosurgical probe according to the present invention incorporating a loop electrode for resection and ablation of tissue;

FIGS. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 2;

FIGS. 4 is an exploded sectional view of a distal portion of the electrosurgical probe;

FIGS. 5A and 5B are end and cross-sectional views, respectively, of the proximal portion of the probe;

FIGS. 6 illustrates a surgical kit for removing and ablating tissue according to the present invention;

FIGS. 7 is a perspective view of another electrosurgical system incorporating a power supply, an electrosurgical probe and a supply of electrically conductive fluid for delivering the fluid to the target site;

FIGS. 8 is a side view of another electrosurgical probe according to the present invention incorporating aspiration electrodes for ablating aspirated tissue fragments and/or tissue strands, such as synovial tissue;

FIGS. 9 is an end view of the probe of FIGS. 8;

FIGS. 10 is an exploded view of a proximal portion of the electrosurgical probe;

FIGS. 11-13 illustrate alternative probes according to the present invention, incorporating aspiration electrodes;

FIGS. 14 illustrates an endoscopic sinus surgery procedure, wherein an endoscope is delivered through a nasal passage to view a surgical site within the nasal cavity of the patient;

FIGS. 15 illustrates an endoscopic sinus surgery procedure with one of the probes described above according to the present invention;

FIGS. 16A and 16B illustrate a detailed view of the sinus surgery procedure, illustrating ablation of tissue according to the present invention;

FIGS. 17 illustrates a procedure for treating obstructive sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, according to the present invention;

FIGS. 18 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 19 is a side-cross-sectional view of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 18;

FIGS. 20 is an enlarged detailed cross-sectional view of the distal end portion of the probe of FIGS. 18;

FIGS. 21 and 22 show the proximal end and the distal end, respectively, of the probe of FIGS. 18;

FIGS. 23 illustrates a method for removing fatty tissue from the abdomen, groin or thigh region of a patient according to the present invention;

FIGS. 24 illustrates a method for removing fatty tissue in the head and neck region of a patient according to the present invention.

FIGS. 25 is a perspective view of yet another embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 26 is a side cross-sectional view of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 25;

FIGS. 27 is an enlarged detailed view of the distal end portion of the probe of FIGS. 25;

FIGS. 28 is a perspective view of the distal portion of the probe of FIGS. 25;

FIGS. 29 is a perspective view of an electrode support member of the probe of FIGS. 25;

FIGS. 30 illustrates the proximal end of the probe of FIGS. 25; and

FIGS. 31 is an alternative embodiment of the active electrode for the probe of FIGS. 25;

FIGS. 32 shows an electrosurgical probe including a resection unit, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 33 shows a resection unit of an electrosurgical probe, the resection unit including a resection electrode on a resection electrode support;

FIGS. 34A-D each show an electrosurgical probe including a resection unit, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 35A shows an electrosurgical probe including a resection unit and an aspiration device, according to the invention;

FIGS. 35B shows an electrosurgical probe including a resection unit and a fluid delivery device, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 36A-F each show a resection unit having at least one resection electrode head arranged on a resection electrode support, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 37 illustrates an arrangement of a resection electrode head with respect to the longitudinal axis of a resection unit;

FIGS. 38A shows, in plan view, a resection electrode support disposed on a shaft distal end of an electrosurgical probe;

FIGS. 38B-D each show a profile of a resection electrode head on a resection electrode support;

FIGS. 39A-I each show a cross-section of a resection electrode head, according to one embodiment of the invention, as seen along the lines 39A-I of FIGS. 38B;

FIGS. 40 shows a cross-section of a resection electrode head having an exposed cutting edge and a covered portion having an insulating layer, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 41A illustrates a distal end of an electrosurgical probe including a plurality of resection electrode heads, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 41B illustrates the distal end of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 41A taken along the lines 41B-41B;

FIGS. 41C illustrates the distal end of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 41A taken along the lines 41C-41C;

FIGS. 42A is a sectional view of a distal end portion of an electrosurgical shaft, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 42B illustrates the distal end of the shaft of FIGS. 42A taken along the lines 42B-42B;

FIGS. 43A-D are side views of the shaft distal end portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 44A-D each show a resection unit in relation to a fluid delivery device, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 45 shows a shaft distal end portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 46 schematically represents a surgical kit for resection and ablation of tissue, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 47A-B schematically represent a method of performing a resection and ablation electrosurgical procedure, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 48 schematically represents a method of making a resection and ablation electrosurgical probe, according to yet another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 49 is a side view of an electrosurgical probe having electrodes mounted on the distal terminus of the probe shaft, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 50A shows a longitudinal section of a probe showing detail of the shaft and handle;

FIGS. 50B is an end view of the distal terminus of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 50A;

FIGS. 51A shows a longitudinal section of a probe showing detail of the shaft distal end, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 51B is an end view of the distal terminus of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 51A;

FIGS. 52A shows a longitudinal section of a probe showing detail of the shaft distal end, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 52B is an end view of the distal terminus of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 52A;

FIGS. 53A-D show side, perspective, face, and sectional views, respectively of an electrode support of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 54 and 55 each show a sectional view of an electrode support of an electrosurgical probe, according to two different embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 56A shows a longitudinal section of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 56B is an end view of the distal terminus of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 56A;

FIGS. 56C shows attachment of an ablation electrode to an electrode support;

FIGS. 57A shows a longitudinal section of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 57B is an end view of the distal terminus of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 57A;

FIGS. 58 is a perspective view of a digestion electrode of an electrosurgical probe, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 59A shows a longitudinal section view of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical probe, having an electrode mounted laterally on the shaft distal end, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 59B is a plan view of the shaft distal end shown in FIGS. 59A;

FIGS. 60A shows a plan view of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical probe, having ablation and digestion electrodes mounted laterally on the shaft distal end, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 60B shows a transverse cross-section of the shaft distal end of FIGS. 60A;

FIGS. 61 schematically represents a series of steps involved in a method of aggressively removing tissue during a surgical procedure;

FIGS. 62A and 62B show a side view and an end-view, respectively, of an electrosurgical suction apparatus, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 62C shows a longitudinal cross-section of the apparatus of FIGS. 62A, 62B;

FIGS. 63A shows a longitudinal cross-section of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical suction apparatus, according to the invention;

FIGS. 63B shows a transverse cross-sectional view of an active electrode of the apparatus of FIGS. 63A as taken along the lines 63B-63B;

FIGS. 63C shows an active electrode in communication with an electrode lead;

FIGS. 64A shows an electrosurgical suction apparatus having an outer sheath, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 64B shows a transverse cross-section of the apparatus of FIGS. 64A;

FIGS. 65A shows a longitudinal cross-section of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical suction apparatus having a baffle, and FIGS. 65B is an end view of the apparatus of FIGS. 65A, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 66A and 66B each show a longitudinal cross-section of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical suction apparatus, according to two different embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 67A and 67B show a perspective view and a side view, respectively, of the shaft distal end of an electrosurgical suction apparatus, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 68A is a block diagram representing an electrosurgical system, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 68B is a block diagram representing an electrosurgical probe of the system of FIGS. 68A,

FIGS. 69A-69C each schematically represent a working portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to various embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 70A is a longitudinal sectional view of an electrosurgical probe, according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 70B is a perspective view of the distal portion of the electrosurgical probe of FIGS. 70A;

FIGS. 71A is a perspective view of the distal portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 71B is a side view of the distal portion of the probe of FIGS. 71A;

FIGS. 72 is a perspective view of the distal portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 73A is a perspective view of the distal portion of an electrosurgical probe, according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 73B ~~FIGS. 72B~~ is a plan view of the distal portion of the probe of FIGS. 73A; and

FIGS. 74 schematically represents a series of steps involved in a method of ablating tissue, according to another embodiment of the invention.